

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the October 1, 2004 Office Action (the "Office Action") in the above-referenced patent application. Claim 46 has been amended, claims 1-45, 47-72, 77 and 82-100 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 46, 73-76 and 78-81 are pending in the application.

While the applicants do not agree with the rejections made in the Office Action, in order to expedite the issuance of the application, the applicants have amended the application to place it in condition for allowance. The applicants maintain the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a separate application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 94 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.¹ Accordingly, the applicants have incorporated the elements of claim 94 into claim 46, the base claim from which it depended. There were no intervening claims. Language objected to by the Examiner as new matter has been removed; although the applicants emphasize that the language removed is not new matter, and the applicants maintain the right to pursue the cancelled language in a separate application.

The applicants have cancelled the remaining claims with the exception of claims 73-76 and 78-81, which depend from claim 46. These claims are novel and non-obvious for the same reasons that claim 46 is novel and non-obvious; and further, they are novel and non-obvious for the reasons stated in Section 1 of the applicants' previous amendment, filed 8 July 2004.

Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, the applicants believe that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment, a telephone interview is requested.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. Nonetheless, if it is determined that any fee or charge is properly payable in connection with the entry of this Amendment, the U.S. Patent Office is hereby authorized to be charged such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

¹ Office Action, Page 3, under "Allowable Subject Matter".

Respectfully submitted,

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